



Phoenix College's 90th Anniversary

Monday, September 13, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you for including me in this important celebration of Phoenix College's ninety years of service to the community.

Ninety years.

I did a little research about what was going on ninety years ago, and discovered two other significant events besides the founding of Phoenix College.

First -- in 1920 -- the US Postal Service ruled that children could no longer be sent by Parcel Post.

And then, second, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote.

Indeed, I'd say 1920 was the year of ENLIGHTENMENT.

I am pleased to have the privilege of witnessing this milestone in the history of Phoenix College, and I brought with me an official letter honoring that achievement -- which I have the distinct honor of presenting to Dr. Solley. The letter reads, in part, "with Special Recognition, Be it hereby known to all that I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby offer my sincere congratulations to Phoenix College on the occasion of its 90th Anniversary.

"Phoenix College, the flagship of the Maricopa Community Colleges, excels in providing the highest quality instruction and state-of-the-art learning environments, while collaborating with the business community and public and private universities to continuously expand opportunities to meet the lifelong educational needs of Arizona communities.

“Phoenix College offers outstanding programs and services, excellent faculty and staff, and community support to prepare students for a culturally diverse technological and global society.

“On behalf of the citizens of the State of Arizona, I offer my sincere appreciation for all that you do for the community, and salute the institution for its valuable contributions to Arizona.”

Thank you.

When Phoenix College moved to its current location here at 15th Avenue and Thomas Road, many people questioned why it was being built, “so far from town.”

As it turns out, foresight placed Phoenix College in what would become the heart of the city, so the prospect of an affordable, accessible higher education is right at the door step of those who live and work here.

Ever since then, Phoenix College has been an integral part of the fabric of Phoenix.

Generations of students have come to Phoenix College to follow their dreams and goals, and have gone out to make our community a better and richer place to live.

Phoenix College alumni include heads of corporations (Rich Boals), professional athletes (football – Fred Carr; golf – Jonathan Kaye), civic leaders (Phil Gordon, Peterson Zah), internationally-renowned artists (Eric Fischl, Ed Mell), and Arizona’s first female governor (Rose Mofford).

After nine decades, Phoenix College continues to produce highly-skilled members of the workforce.

Here in Arizona, the Maricopa Community Colleges are the largest provider of health care workers and job training.

Phoenix College proudly serves both as a major resource for business and industry and for individuals seeking education and job training.

Today’s event is truly a celebration of how Phoenix College --- like all the Maricopa Community Colleges --- consistently meets the needs of our communities by providing educational opportunities that are accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality.

The fact that Phoenix College has been doing so for nine decades is extraordinary.

To the students, faculty, staff, and alumni: You should feel very proud to be associated with this outstanding institution, which for ninety years has served as a launching point for the dreams and aspirations of anyone seeking to improve their life through higher education.

Congratulations on this milestone anniversary. God bless you, God bless Phoenix College, and God bless the great state of Arizona.

Thank you.